

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2504

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, RH, MZ, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN MEDIA ON MOZAMBIQUE'S CHARGES OF
RHODESIAN AGGRESSION

1. TANZANIAN MEDIA, WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT-OR-PARTY-CONTROLLED, HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED IN REPORTING AND COMMENTING ON MOZAMBIQUE'S CHARGES OF NEW RHODESIAN AGGRESSION. RADIO AND PRESS HAVE GIVEN STRAIGHT COVERAGE TO MACHEL'S JUNE 18 SPEECH AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

2. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS EDITION OF JUNE 20 DEVOTED EDITORIAL TO SUBJECT. IT CONGRATULATED MOZAMBIQUE FOR ITS GREAT SACRIFICE FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION AND PLEDGED TANZANIA'S FULL SUPPORT. EDITORIAL STATED AGGRESSION AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE IS
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AGGRESSION AGAINST TANZANIA, FRONTLINE STATES, AFRICA, AND ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD RESPOND TO MACHEL'S CALL. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO ZAIRE IN RECENT SHABA INSURGENCY, IT SAID "LET US SEE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO DEFEND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SHOWN AN EAGERNESS TO DO (SIC) ELSEWHERE ON THIS CONTINENT." EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR

EARLY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MOZAMBIQUE.

3. PARTY-OWNED DAILY UHURU DEVOTED ITS EDITORIAL ON JUNE 20 TO BLAST AGAINST "FASCIST" RHODESIAN REGIME AND URGED FULL SUPPORT FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

4. WE NOTE FROM FBIS REPORTS AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA THAT NYERERE REPORTED TO HAVE GONE TO NAMPULA, IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE, JUNE 17 TO MEET WITH MACHEL. NYERERE HAD BEEN ON TOUR IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA NEAR MOZAMBIQUE BORDER. HE RETURNED FROM SOUTH TO DAR ES SALAAM JUNE 19. TANZANIAN MEDIA MADE NO MENTION OF NAMPULA VISIT, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF CITATION IN JUNE 19 SUNDAY NEWS OF REUTERS REPORT THAT NYERERE HAD SEEN MACHEL IN MOZAMBIQUE.

5. COMMENT. TANZANIAN MEDIA HAVE SHOWN RESTRATINT IN REACTING TO MOZAMBIQUE'S CHARGES OF RENEWED RHODESIAN AGGRESSION. SUPPORT FOR MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN AFFIRMED BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID THAT WOULD INTEFERE WITH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA. THERE IS NO GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ABSENCE OF COVERAGE OF NYERERE'S TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO FOREGO OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO NAMPULA VISIT AS AFFIRMATION OF FRONT LINE SOLIDARITY.
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